

CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 9-11, and 25 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A drainage system grate assembly for covering a watercourse of a drainage system, the drainage system assembly comprising:

a frame physically distinct with respect to but operable to be set within the watercourse and span at least two opposing edges of the watercourse;

a grate physically distinct with respect to but operable to be set ~~seated~~ within the frame and including -

at least one tread bar for allowing a person or vehicle to traverse over the watercourse,

at least one crossbar spanning the frame and supporting the tread bars, and

a flange protruding from at least one crossbar; and

a locking element operable to be secured to the flange and contact the frame in order to secure the grate within the frame wherein the locking element is physically distinct with respect to both the frame and the grate.

2. (Original) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the frame includes ledges for supporting the crossbars.

3. (Currently Amended) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the frame includes downwardly extending shelves for engaging the locking element.

4. (Original) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein each crossbar includes at least one channel for supporting the tread bars therein.

5. (Original) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 4, wherein each crossbar includes a slot along its length of sufficient depth so as to meet each channel and allow the tread bars to be secured to the crossbar by welding a bead along the slot.

6. (Original) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein each crossbar includes a slanted side adjacent the flange.

7. (Original) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the flange is substantially horizontal.

8. (Original) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein each crossbar includes a slanted side adjacent a substantially vertical sidewall.

9. (Currently Amended) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 4 3, wherein the flange includes a hole operable to receive a bolt to secure the grate to the locking element.

10. (Currently Amended) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 9, wherein the locking element includes a substantially horizontal member operable to receive the bolt and at least one substantially vertical member operable to engage the frame by sliding upwardly and behind the shelves.

11. (Currently Amended) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 4 3, wherein the locking element is a flat bar for spanning the frame below the shelves of the frame.

12. (Original) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the locking element includes a nut retainer.

13-20. (Previously Cancelled)

21. (Previously Added) A drainage system grate assembly for covering a watercourse of a drainage system, the drainage system assembly comprising:

a frame adapted to be set within a perimeter of the watercourse and including -

at least two upwardly oriented ledges, and

a downwardly oriented shelf positioned below each of the ledges;

a grate adapted to be seated within the frame, upon the ledges, and including -

a plurality of tread bars for allowing a person or vehicle to traverse over the watercourse,

at least one crossbar spanning the frame with each crossbar having at least

one slanted side, channels for supporting the tread bars therein, and

a slot along its length of sufficient depth so as to meet each channel

and allow the tread bars to be secured to the crossbar by welding a

bead along the slot,

a substantially horizontal flange protruding from at least one crossbar and

having a substantially vertical hole; and

a locking element operable to selectively engage the shelf in order to secure the grate within the frame.

22. (Previously Added) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein the locking element includes a substantially horizontal member and at least one substantially vertical member.

23. (Previously Added) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein the locking element is a flat bar oriented along a substantially horizontal plane for spanning the frame.

24. (Previously Added) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein the locking element includes a nut retainer.

25. (Currently Amended) A drainage system grate assembly for covering a watercourse of a drainage system, the drainage system assembly comprising:

a frame adapted to be set within a perimeter of the watercourse and including -

at least two upwardly oriented ledges, and

a downwardly oriented shelf positioned below each of the ledges;

a grate formed separately from but operable to be seated within the frame, upon the ledges, and including -

a plurality of tread bars for allowing a person or vehicle to traverse over the watercourse,

at least one crossbar spanning the frame with each crossbar having at least

one slanted side, channels for supporting the tread bars therein, and

a slot along its length of sufficient depth so as to meet each channel

and allow the tread bars to be secured to the crossbar by welding a

bead along the slot, and

a substantially horizontal flange protruding from at least one crossbar and

having a substantially vertical hole; and

a locking element formed separately from but operable to selectively secure the grate within the frame by engaging the shelf as a result of turning a bolt penetrating the hole, the locking element including -

a substantially horizontal member for receiving the bolt,
at least one substantially vertical member for engaging the shelf, and
a nut retainer for holding a nut into which the bolt is threaded.

[Please add claim 26, as follows:]

26. (New) A drainage system grate assembly for covering a watercourse of a drainage system, the drainage system assembly comprising:

a frame adapted to be set within a perimeter of the watercourse and including -
at least one substantially horizontal ledges adjacent the perimeter of the watercourse and presenting an upwardly oriented surface, and
a downwardly extending shelf positioned below the ledge;

a grate formed separately from but operable to be seated within the frame, upon the surfaces of the ledges, and including -

a plurality of tread bars for allowing a person or vehicle to traverse over the watercourse,

two crossbars spanning the frame and supporting the trade bars by resting on the surfaces of the ledges, and

a substantially horizontal flange protruding from at least one crossbar, wherein the flange includes a substantially vertical hole; and

a locking element formed separately from but operable to selectively secure the grate within the frame by engaging the shelf as a result of turning a bolt penetrating the hole, the locking element including -

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a substantially horizontal member for receiving the bolt, and
at least one substantially vertical member for sliding upwardly behind
the shelf.
